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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/749,513 | 01/02/2004 | John Nash | 0119/0029 | 8687 |
| 21395 | 7590 | 05/04/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| LOUIS WOO LAW OFFICE OF LOUIS WOO 717 NORTH FAYETTE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | | ALI, SHUMAYA B |
| | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | 3743 | | |

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/749,513 | NASH ET AL. |
| | Examiner Shumaya B. Ali | Art Unit 3743 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 7,9,17 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6,8,10-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: detailed action.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-6,8,1016 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bierman US Patent No. 2,444,417 in view of WO 03/016018 A1.**

As to claims 1 and 8, Bierman discloses a face mask (fig.1, 10) of a plastics material comprising: a relatively soft canopy member having a peripheral sealing edge providing a seal with the skin around the nose and mouth of a patient (see fig.1); a relatively rigid reinforcement member (28), and a gas port (22) by which gas can enter the mask, however does not disclose said reinforcement member being molded integrally with said canopy member as another shot in the dual-shot molding process; said canopy member being molded as one shot in a dual-shot molding process, however such molding process is well known in the art and also taught by Hicks. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the mask of Bierman in view of Hicks in order to construct the mask using dual shot method for the purposes of making two distinct structures as one structure. As to claim 8, combined teaching of Bierman and Hicks discloses structural limitation required to perform the method steps sited in claim 8.

As to claim 2, Bierman discloses face mask according to Claim 1, wherein said peripheral sealing edge of said canopy member is tapered to a reduced thickness and an increased flexibility at its edge (as disclosed in fig.1).

As to claim 3, Bierman discloses wherein said gas port is provided on said reinforcement member (see fig.1, 22).

As to claim 4, Bierman discloses wherein said gas port has a gas connector projecting therefrom for connection to a gas supply tube, and wherein said port is located in line with the mouth of the patient and said connector is angled such that it projects down when the mask is applied to the patient's face in an upright position (as shown in fig.1).

As to claim 5, Bierman discloses including a valve (see fig.1, 17) separate from said gas port, wherein said valve is arranged to allow air to flow into the mask when there is an inadequate supply at said gas port (see col.2).

As to claim 6, Bierman discloses, wherein said valve is provided on said reinforcement member (see fig.1).

As to claim 10, Bierman discloses wherein said reinforcement member is a frame with a plurality of radially extending arms (see fig.1).

As to claim 11, Bierman discloses wherein two of said arms extend towards opposite edges of mask and are terminated by lateral bars (35,36,40) extending substantially parallel to an edge of the mask.

As to claim 12, Bierman discloses including a harness (34) arranged to extend around the head of the patient, and wherein said lateral bars support a fastener to which said

harness is attached.

As to claim 13, Bierman discloses wherein said frame includes three arms supporting respectively a gas port a valve to allow gas to enter the mask and a vent that can be opened to allow gas to flow out of the mask (see fig.1).

As to claim 14, Bierman discloses including a harness managed to extend around the head of the patient and wherein said harness is attached at opposite ends with said reinforcement member (as seen in fig.1).

As to claim 15, Bierman discloses wherein the opposite ends of said harness are of triangular shape having a free end extending rearward and wherein the free end is adjustably attachable with a part of said harness (see fig.1).

As to claim 16, Bierman discloses A face mask assembly including a harness (34) and a mask (10), wherein said mask is of a plastics material and comprises: a relatively soft canopy member (12) having a peripheral sealing edge providing a seal with the skin around the nose and mouth of a patient, and a gas port (22) provided on said reinforcement member by which gas can enter the mask, and wherein said harness is arranged to extend around the head of the patient and is attached with said reinforcement member (see fig.1), however does not disclose said canopy member being molded as one shot in a dual-shot molding process; a relatively rigid reinforcement member, said reinforcement member being molded integrally with said canopy member as another shot in the dual-shot molding process, however such molding process is well known in the art and also taught by Hicks. **Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the mask of Bierman**

in view of Hicks in order to construct the mask using dual shot method for the purposes of making two distinct structures as one structure.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 16 objected to because of the following informalities: “said reinforcement member” lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

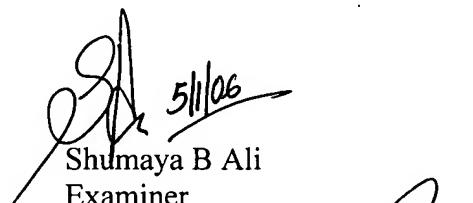
Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 7,9, 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shumaya B. Ali whose telephone number is 571-272-6088. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on 571-272-4791. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


5/1/06
Shumaya B Ali
Examiner
Art Unit 3743


Henry Bennett
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700